

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 175/99

Fear for Safety / Fear of ill-treatment

3 December

MEXICO Benito García  
Celerino García

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of Benito García and Celerino García after receiving news that both men have been beaten in custody. The organization is concerned that they are at risk of further beatings, particularly as their lawyers are not being allowed to see them.

Benito García reportedly sustained bruising after he was brutally beaten by the *Policía Judicial del Estado* (PJE), Judicial State Police over a period of three days. Celerino García's condition is not known. Both are in the custody of the Public Ministry of Valle de San Quintin, Baja California state, after they were arrested on 29 November 1999.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the years Amnesty International has received compelling evidence of the torture and ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners in Mexico. This has been backed up by numerous reports by human rights experts representing the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The Government has implemented reforms designed to strengthen the protection and defence of human rights, which include: the publication of a National Program to Promote and Strengthen Human Rights, the setting up of the *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos* (CNDH), National Commission for Human Rights, and the recognition of the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

There is little, if any, evidence however that these reforms have been translated into administrative and other practices designed to end the problem of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners. This is reflected in the failure of the government so far to implement concrete recommendations put to it by inter-governmental human rights bodies.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Benito García and Celerino García, detained in the Public Ministry of Valle de San Quintin, Baja California state, since 29 November 1999;
- urging that they be allowed immediate access to their own independent lawyers;
- urging that they be immediately examined by an independent medical doctor, promptly brought before a judge and either charged with a recognisable criminal offence or immediately released.

#### APPEALS TO:

Lic. Juan Manuel Salazar Pimentel  
Procurador General de Justicia  
Edificio Poder Judicial 1er Piso  
Paseo de los Heroes y Av. De los Pioneros  
Centro Civico Mexicali,  
Baja California 21000  
MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General, Baja California, México

**Faxes:+ 52 65 581183**

**Salutation: Sr Procurador / Dear Attorney General**

C.P. Jorge Ramos  
Secretario General de Gobierno  
Edificio Poder Ejecutivo 3er Piso Czda.  
Independencia y Paseo de los Heroes  
Centro Civico Mexicali  
Baja California 21000  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario General, Baja California, México**

**Faxes:+ 52 65 581169**

**Salutation: Sr Secretario / Dear Secretary General**

Lic. Antonio García Sánchez  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos y Protección  
Ciudadana del Estado de Baja California  
Boulevard Agua Caliente No. 10440-7  
Edif. Barranquita, Col. Aviación  
Tijuana  
Baja California 22400  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador DDHH, Baja California, México**

**Faxes:+ 52 66 817441**

**Salutation: Sr Procurador / Dear Procurator**

**COPIES TO:**

Centro de Derechos Humanos  
"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C., (PRODH)  
Serapio Rendon 57-B  
Col. San Rafael, 06470  
México D.F. MEXICO

**Faxes:+ 52 5 535 6892**

**E-mails: [prodh@laneta.apc.org](mailto:prodh@laneta.apc.org)**

and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 January 2000.